

IN THE CLAIMS

1-46 (canceled).

47. (Currently amended) ~~In a computer-readable medium,~~ a A method for providing a database suitable for pricing transactions, the method comprising:

~~creating, in the a computer-readable medium,~~ a transaction instance corresponding to a transaction;

~~creating, in the computer-readable medium,~~ a first production service instance representing an action performed to process said transaction, said first production service instance being linked to said transaction instance by a first relation instance; ~~and~~

~~creating, in the computer-readable medium,~~ a billing service instance representing a billing service related to a pricing of said first production service, said billing service instance being linked to said first production service instance by a second relation instance; and

pricing said transaction for billing a customer based on said transaction instance, said first production service instance and said billing service instance.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by said first relation instance.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by said second relation instance.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by a third relation instance.

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by a third relation instance.

52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ creating a third relation instance linking said transaction instance to an account instance.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein said account instance is linked to a client instance by a fourth relation instance.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 52, further comprising creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a fourth relation instance linking said transaction instance to an entity instance.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said entity instance is a market segment instance.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising storing said transaction instance, said production service instance and said billing service instance in at least one entity instance table.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising storing said first relation instance and said second relation instance in at least one relation instance table.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a settlement service instance linked to said billing service instance by a third relation instance.

59. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a price table instance related to said transaction instance;

wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said price table instance is a cost table instance and said price is a cost.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said price table instance is a fee table instance and said price is a fee.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 further comprising creating a cost table instance related to said fee table instance by a mandatory relation instance.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ an entity instance related to said transaction instance; and creating a price table instance related to said entity instance;

wherein said price table instance contains & price for said billing service instance.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said entity instance is an account instance.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a first entity instance related to said transaction instance;

creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a second entity instance related to said first entity instance; and creating a first price table instance related to said second entity instance;

wherein said first price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65, wherein said first entity instance is an account instance and said second entity instance is a client instance.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising creating, ~~in the computer-readable medium,~~ a second price table instance related to first entity instance.

68. (Currently amended) A database data processing system for pricing transactions, said data processing system comprising:

means for creating a transaction instance corresponding to a transaction;

means for creating a first production service instance representing an action performed to process said transaction, said first production service instance being linked to said transaction instance by a first relation instance; ~~and~~

means for creating a billing service instance representing a billing service related to a pricing of said first production service, said billing service instance being linked to said first production service instance by a second relation instance; and

means for computing a price for said transaction, said price being a cost to a customer for said transaction computed based on said transaction instance, said first production service instance and said billing service instance.

69. (Previously presented) The data processing system of Claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by said first relation instance.

70. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by said second relation instance.

71. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second production service instance linked to said transaction instance by a third relation instance.

72. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a second billing service instance linked to said first production service instance by a third relation instance.

73. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a third relation instance linking said transaction instance to an account instance.

74. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 73, wherein said account instance is linked to a client instance by a fourth relation instance.

75. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a fourth relation instance linking said transaction instance to an entity instance.

76. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising at least one entity instance table to store said transaction instance, said production service instance and said billing service instance.

77. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 76, further comprising at least one relation instance table to store said first relation instance and said second relation instance.

78. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising means for creating a settlement service instance linked to said billing service instance by a third relation instance.

79. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising:

means for creating a price table instance related to said transaction instance;

wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

80. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 79, wherein said price table instance is a cost table instance and said price is a cost.

81. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 79, wherein said price table instance is a fee table instance and said price is a fee.

82. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 81 further comprising means for creating a cost table instance related to said fee table instance by a mandatory relation instance.

83. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising:

means for creating an entity instance related to said transaction instance; and

means for creating a price table instance related to said entity instance;

wherein said price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

84. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 68, further comprising:

means for creating a first entity instance related to said transaction instance;

means for creating a second entity instance related to said first entity instance;

and means for creating a first price table instance related to said second entity instance;

wherein said first price table instance contains a price for said billing service instance.

85. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 84, wherein said first entity instance is an account instance and said second entity instance is a client instance.

86. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 84, further comprising means for creating a second price table instance related to first entity instance.